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25944

7590

03/23/2010

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC  
P.O. BOX 320850  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320-4850

EXAMINER

SCARITO, JOHN D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3696

DATE MAILED: 03/23/2010

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/524,112	12/09/2005	Harlan A. Horwitz	115572.04	2383

TITLE OF INVENTION: COUNT AND LOGIN MANAGEMENT

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	06/23/2010

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. **PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. **THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

## HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

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B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

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III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

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25944 7590 03/23/2010  
**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
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**ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320-4850**

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I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/524,112 12/09/2005

Harlan A. Horwitz

115572.04

2383

TITLE OF INVENTION: COUNT AND LOGIN MANAGEMENT

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	06/23/2010

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
SCARITO, JOHN D	3696	705-035000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.  
☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a **Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
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 3 \_\_\_\_\_

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee  
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- ☐ A check is enclosed.  
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.  
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/524,112	12/09/2005	Harlan A. Hurwitz	115572.04	2383
25944	7590	03/23/2010	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 320850 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320-4850			SCARITO, JOHN D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

3696

DATE MAILED: 03/23/2010

## Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 354 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 354 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

**Notice of Allowability****Application No.**

10/524,112

**Applicant(s)**

HURWITZ ET AL.

**Examiner**

John D. Scarito

**Art Unit**

3696

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicant's amendment of 09/28/2009.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-5,7,9, 12-14,16-18,23 and 35.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 09/30/2009 & 01/15/2010
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_.

/John D. Scarito/  
Examiner, Art Unit 3696

/Alexander Kalinowski/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3691

### **DETAILED ACTION**

The following is Examiner's response to Applicant's amendment received 09/28/2009 which stems from Examiner's Office Action of 05/27/2009.

#### ***Status of the Claims***

As per Applicant's response, Examiner acknowledges that Applicant amended Claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 11, 12, 15-17, 23, & 35 and cancelled Claims 6 & 8. Here, Claims 4, 7, 10, 13, 14, 18 are either previously presented or presented as originally filed, but are considered amended due to their dependence on amended claims. Claims 2, 19-22, 24-34 & 36-50 were previously cancelled. As such, Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9-18, 23 & 35 are currently pending. Examiner notes Applicants statement that "[n]o new matter is added" [Applicant's Response, page 6, lines 3-4].

### **Response to Remarks/Arguments**

#### ***Applicant Initiated Interview***

Examiner acknowledges the personal interview of 09/11/2009. Here, Applicant affords only a general record of the interview [see Applicant's Response, page 6, lines 6-8] thus Examiner defaults to the Interview Summary Record mailed 09/15/2009 for the substance of the interview.

#### ***Minor Claim Objections***

Examiner withdraws his minor claim objections in the Office Action of 05/27/2009 in view of Applicant's amendments.

***Statutory Grounds of Rejection***

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112-1<sup>st</sup> & 2nd Paragraph***

Examiner withdraws his §112-1<sup>st</sup> paragraph rejection in the Office Action of 05/27/2009 in view of Applicant's amendments.

Examiner withdraws his §112-2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph rejections in the Office Action of 05/27/2009 in view of Applicant's amendments and the Examiner's Amendment that follows.

Examiner thanks Applicant for clarifying the record that "validating...the payment media" refers to "verifying identifiable funds" [see Office Action of 05/27/2009, page 6, lines 13-19 & Applicant's Response, page 6, lines 23-24]. Further, Examiner thanks Applicant for clarifying the record with respect to whether a login operation is "successful" or "unsuccessful". [see Applicant's Response, page 7, lines 19-22, "there are not degrees of success related to the login operation. That is, login either occurs or does not occur."].

**Response to Amendments**

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interviews with Mr. Steven Jinks (Reg. No.: 62,760) on 01/15/2010 and 02/03/2010.

**Enter the following Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a machine that accepts payment media and that requires a user login operation, the method comprising:

receiving the payment media in an input receptacle of the machine wherein the payment media consists of one or more of currency notes, currency coins and currency checks;

starting processing of the payment media as soon as the payment media has been received in the input receptacle wherein the processing of the payment media comprises validating and counting the payment media;

storing the payment media received in the input receptacle in a secure device until the user login operation is completed; ~~and~~

performing the user login operation when initiated by the user [[:]], wherein [[:]] ~~the step of performing the user login operation can be done~~ is initiated either during and or after the step of processing of the payment media and is initiated by the user once for each time the payment media is received in the input receptacle, and  
~~the processing of the payment media comprises validating and counting the payment media.~~  
returning the same payment media stored in the secure device to the user following an unsuccessful login operation or  
storing the payment media in the machine upon a determination of a successful login operation.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the secure device comprises one or more of a roll store in the machine, an escrow device in the machine, or a secure compartment in the machine.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the user login operation is performed at the machine, is performed from a location electronically coupled to the machine over a local

communication network or is performed from a location electronically coupled to the machine over a wide area communication network.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the machine is located in a retail store, and the user is a cashier of the retail store, a teller or an individual not skilled in the operation of payment media handling devices, wherein the retail store includes at least one of: a single store, multiple stores, at least one third party concession stand located within the ~~at least one~~ single store and a plurality of stores located within a mall.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein users of the machine are employees from plural companies and the machine is located to allow access by the users.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the processing of the payment media further includes determining a denomination of the payment media.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the machine dispenses payment media previously ~~received into~~ received in the input receptacle and stored in the machine.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the processing of the payment media is cancelled following a plurality of failures of the user login operation.



14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein, following the plurality of failures of the user login operation, the machine returns to the user the same payment media that was received into the input receptacle ~~by~~ from the user.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising notifying the user that the processing of the payment media ~~processing~~ has been completed upon occurrence of a successful user login operation and the completion of the processing.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 16, further comprising storing the payment media in the machine upon ~~a determination of the successful user login operation and~~ the completion of the processing.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the user login operation is performed using a user interface of the machine.

19.-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable storage medium that provides instructions for controlling a machine that accepts payment media and that requires a user login operation, the instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform operations comprising:  
receiving the payment media in an input receptacle of the machine wherein the payment media consists of one or more of currency notes, currency coins and currency checks;  
starting processing of the payment media as soon as the payment media has been received in the input receptacle wherein the processing of the payment media comprises validating and counting the payment media;  
storing the payment media received in the input receptacle in a secure device until the user login operation is completed; ~~and~~

performing the user login operation when initiated by a user [[:]] , wherein ~~the step of performing the user login operation can be done~~ is initiated either during and or after the step of processing of the payment media and is initiated by the user once for each time the payment media is received in the input receptacle, and  
~~the processing of the payment media comprises validating and counting the payment media.~~  
returning the same payment media stored in the secure device to the user following an unsuccessful login operation or  
storing the payment media in the machine upon a determination of a successful login operation.

24.-34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) A machine that accepts payment media and that requires a user login operation, the machine comprising:

an input receptacle into which a user of the machine places the payment media wherein the payment media consists of one or more of currency notes, currency coins and currency checks;  
a user interface through which the user of the machine ~~performs and~~ initiates a user login operation;

a secure device that stores the payment media placed in the input receptacle until the user login operation is completed; and

a controller that:

starts processing of the payment media as soon as the payment media has been received into the input receptacle ~~and~~ wherein the processing of the payment media comprises validating and counting the payment media

performs the user login operation when initiated by the user, wherein the user login operation is initiated ~~once~~ either during or after the processing of the payment media each time the payment media has been received in the input receptacle;

~~wherein the processing of the payment media comprises validating and counting the payment media.~~

returns the same payment media stored in the secure device to the user following an unsuccessful login operation or

stores the payment media in the machine upon a determination of a successful login operation.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9-14, 16-18, 23 & 35 are allowed.

***Reasons for Allowance***

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to Applicant's independent Claims 1, 23 & 35, as amended, the most relevant references made of record are Keith, III et al [5,695,038], Bankier et al [2002/0103663], Karlsson [6,080,056], and Dobbins [2002/0063034].

**Keith ('038)** discloses a drop safe for receiving currency through bill acceptors and storing said currency into sealed cassettes within the safe [see Abstract]. In particular, Keith ('038) discloses processing of said currency for multiple persons wherein said processing includes validation and counting [see column 6, lines 30-32, lines 46-51, column 2, lines 65-66, column 11, lines 51-53 & column 2 lines 40-41]. Here, although Keith ('038) teaches user login before said currency is processed [column 13, lines 57-59 & 54-55], Keith ('038) does not explicitly disclose *user initiation of the login operation during or after the processing of the payment media* wherein the processing of the payment media comprises validating and counting the payment media. At best, Keith ('038) arguably suggests a user initiated login after the processing of payment media. More specifically, in a single-cashier embodiment, a cashiers drops currency into the safe throughout his/her shift but is not required to login until the end of his/her shift [see column 13, lines 54-55 & column 12, lines 50-51]. However, upon further consideration,

Examiner notes that said cashier appears to have been already logged into the system by another entity [see column 12, lines 4-6, i.e. his/her supervisor, see column 11, lines 38-40, e.g. operator].

**Bankier ('663)** discloses a system for servicing and managing machine transactions [see paragraph 3]. In particular, Bankier ('663) discloses a commerce transaction where a user can perform actions (i.e. add items to a shopping cart, create and order, modify an existing order, etc) related to the transaction before login (i.e. login after transaction processing). [see paragraphs 54-61]. Here, although Bankier ('663) appears to suggest user login after or during transaction processing [see previous cites], Bankier ('663) does not explicitly disclose user initiation of the login operation during or after the processing of the payment media *wherein the processing of the payment media comprises validating and counting the payment media*. Here, upon reconsideration, Examiner notes that actual payment transfer does not occur at login, but after login.

**Karlsson ('056)** discloses a coin deposit machine that sorts and counts coins [see column 4, lines 56-57 & Abstract]. In particular, Karlsson ('056) teaches coin processing as initiated by pressing a button [column 4, lines 63-64, i.e. not login initiated processing] and the ability to credit a user's bank account for the total value of the coins [column 5, lines 1-3]. More specifically, Karlsson ('056) suggests that a user may insert his/her bank card to enable the machine to credit his/her account once the total amount of the coins have been determined [see column 5, lines 54-60]. Here, however, Karlsson ('056) does not explicitly disclose *user initiation of the login operation during or after the processing of the payment media* wherein the processing of the payment media comprises validating

and counting the payment media. Upon further consideration, Karlsson ('056) appears to fall short of disclosing exactly *when* the user inserts his/her card (i.e. during processing, before processing, or after processing).

**Dobbins ('034)** discloses a safe that accepts cash deposits [Abstract] through a bill acceptor [paragraph 29]. In particular, Dobbins ('034) teaches the use of a wireless tag to identify persons making deposits [Id.] in lieu of requiring the user to enter an identification number [see paragraph 34]. More specifically, *as each bill is inserted*, a wireless link polls for user identification [see paragraphs 35 & 37]. In this vein, Dobbins ('034) at best arguably suggests login during currency processing. However, Dobbins ('034) does not explicitly disclose user initiation of the login operation during or after the processing of the payment media *wherein the processing of the payment media comprises validating and counting the payment media*. Upon further consideration, Dobbins ('034), similar to Karlsson ('056), appears to fall short of disclosing exactly *when* a user's wireless tag responds to a poll (i.e. also not user initiated, but is machine initiated) and "as each bill is inserted" does not appear to read on processing comprising counting and validating the bill as currently claimed.

Overall, Keith ('038), Bankier ('663), Karlsson ('056) and Dobbins ('034) fail to explicitly teach *user initiation of the login operation during or after the processing of the payment media wherein the processing of the payment media comprises validating and counting the payment media*.

Updated searches revealed no references that disclose the invention as claimed nor were any further references identified which could be reasonably combined with the cited art of record to meet the allowable feature discussed above.

Here, Examiner notes a few factors considered in this allowance.

1. Applicant's invention permits user discretion as to when login occurs (i.e. during or after the counting and validating of his/her payment media). It appears that most prior art suggests machine initiated login before a desired transaction can occur (i.e. ATM transactions, etc.)
2. Applicant proffers "a decrease in the overall processing time" since counting and validating and login can "occur in parallel" [Applicant's Response, page 8, lines 10-12].
3. Although the functional result may be the same (i.e. login associates the processing to a particular entity) regardless of when login occurs, login during or after processing appears to shift a risk of loss onto the user until login occurs. For example, a machine counts and validates \$1,000 worth of currency for a user then malfunctions. If a user login has not yet occurred, the burden would appear to be on the user to prove that the money is his/hers.
4. Since "payment media" is limited to "currency notes, currency coins and currency checks", other payment media (i.e. credit cards, debit cards, etc.) are not "received into" the machine [see Applicant's Specification, paragraphs 28, 44, 56, i.e. contextually one cannot count and validate a credit card, debit card, etc.). In this vein, Applicant's disclosure does not appear to contemplate combination

payments (i.e. receiving 'payment media' as claimed, as well as other forms of payment). Stated differently, the current claims would not read on partial cash, partial credit/debit transactions (e.g. self-checkout stations, i.e. machine counts and validates inputted cash, then user swipes his/her credit card, enters PIN, etc., for the balance of payment due).

In sum, Claims 1, 23 & 35 are deemed to be allowable over the prior art of record and Claims 3-5, 7, 9-14 & 16-18 are allowable by virtue of their dependencies.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John D. Scarito whose telephone number is (571) 270-3448. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on (571) 272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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